

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing information processing, management and communication functions in a healthcare environment, said apparatus comprising:

a database server;

a radiology information system (RIS) database residing on said database server;

a picture archive and communication system (PACS) database residing on said database server; and

a database engine residing on said database server to manage said RIS database and said PACS database by providing a brokerless interface between said RIS database and said PACS database allowing RIS functions and PACS functions to directly access each other at a database level without use of a broker.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a set of RIS application modules;

a set of PACS application modules; and

an application server running at least a subset of said set of RIS application modules and said set of PACS application modules.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

at least one Web connection interfacing said application server to at least one client workstation, said at least one client workstation being external to said apparatus.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a TCP/IP protocol-based interface connecting said application server to said database server thus providing access to information from said database server.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

at least one image server storing image data; and

at least one TCP/IP protocol-based interface connecting said database server to said at least one image server thus providing access to said image data from said at least one image server.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a set of RIS application modules that are disabled;

a set of PACS application modules that are enabled; and

a Health Level Seven (HL7)-based interface providing communication between said set of PACS application modules and a RIS system that is external to said apparatus.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a set of PACS application modules that are disabled;

a set of RIS application modules that are enabled; and

a standard medical communications interface providing communication between said set of RIS application modules and a PACS system that is external to said apparatus.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server, wherein said application server is an Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB)-based server;

a set of RIS application modules running on said application server; and

a set of PACS application modules running on said application server.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a reporting module running on said application server and being dedicated to the management of diagnostic report functions.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

an administration module running on said application server and providing system administration and configuration functions.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a central logging module running on said application server and providing application logging and audit logging functions.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a central user login module running on said application server and providing central user account management support.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a patient scheduling module running on said application server and providing automatic scheduling of procedures for patients based on clinical resources available to said patients.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a set of default display protocols (DDPs) stored on said database server and applied to a set of medical images for reading said set of medical images in a pre-defined display format.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a mammography tracking module running on said application server, said mammography tracking module storing mammography related information on said database server and keeping track of notices sent out and to be sent out to referring doctors and patients, and maintaining all mammography related records for auditing purposes.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an application server; and

a patient ordering module running on said application server, said patient ordering module tracking a patient based on a set of ordered procedures as said patient progresses through said set of ordered procedures.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a visual user interface providing a unified and consistent look and feel for both RIS and PACS applications.

18-46. (Canceled)

47. (New) A system for providing information processing, management and communication functions in a healthcare environment, said system comprising:

a database server;

a radiology information system (RIS) database residing on said database server;

a picture archive and communication system (PACS) database residing on said database server; and

a database engine residing on said database server to manage said RIS database and said PACS database by providing a brokerless interface between said RIS database and said PACS database integrating said RIS database and said PACS database and allowing RIS functions and PACS functions to directly access each other at a database level without use of a broker,

wherein said system is configurable to operate in any one of three modes including RIS only, PACS only, and integrated RIS-PACS.